★ 39th Year of Publication ★ 30 Paise ★

FREE INDIA

FOUNDER : E. R. GOVINDAN

Vol. XXXIX, | Madras, Sunday, May 14, 1978 | No 35

RECEIVED 15 MAY 1978

Grams : ARULMART Phone : 22808

Sri Jothee Waste Paper Co.

No. 21, Anna Pillai Street, MADRAS-600001.

Task Before The Progressives

CHARAN SINGHS and Devi Lals and Indira Gandhis and other individuals who seem to loom large on the political horizon because of circumstances, do not really count in the history of a country as large and varied as ours. It is deprived masses who matter, who can give shape to a mighty revolution that can consign arrogant, petty and self-centred individuals to the dust-heap. To mobilise them is the task history has cast on the progressives, and whether they will measure up to it is the only question that should matter from now on, writes *C.N. Chitta Ranjan, in Mainstream, New Delhi.*

If Charan Singh's melodramatic resignation from the Janata Party's National Executive and Central Parliamentary Board failed to produce the kind of high drama that was no doubt intended, it is because everyone within and outside the Janata Party is familiar with and tired of the BLD boss's methods of dealing with crises, unmindful of the consequence to the Party and to the country.

All the same, it would not be realistic to dismiss the hectic activities of the past week in the Capital, with Charan Singh and Devi Lal as the key figures on the one hand, and R.K. Hegde and Chandra Shekhar on the other, as of no great consequence. It would be easy to brush the events aside as merely innerparty squabbling, but the fact is that the squabbling has its impact at the Centre and in the States, especially Janata-run States where differences at the top—described by Charan Singh recently as "personal quarrels and individual differences of opinion"—are duly reflected, leading to a virtual paralysis of administration, apart from failure to provide programmatic direction in the light of the Janata Party's manifesto which remains all but, forgotten.

Inner-party wrangles are by no means peculiar to the Janata Party. It has to be conceded straightaway that this is a characteristic that makes the functioning of most of our parties. The Congress in power was full of group and personal bickerings, and even out of office at the Centre and in most States, that party, cut in two, is not free from acute differences that get aired as publicly as those within the Janata Party. The important point of differentiation is that what the Janata Party does or fails to do, in today's situation, affects all aspects of national life as the in-fighting in any or all of the other parties in the country cannot. Hence the widespread concern over recent developments.

TWO VERSIONS

Submission of the resignation letter by Charan Singh would have been a non-event in the light of his past performance but for the fact that he has chosen to make the letter of resignation a virtual charge-sheet against the rest of the Janata leadership; it is public property now. It can well be asked why Charan Singh did not quit the office of Home Minister if he felt so strongly about the functioning of the party's leadership, but then that would not be in the well-known Charan Singh style. One theory is that the timing of the resignation—on which the leadership is yet to bestow serious thought—to coincide with the eruption of the leadership tussle in Haryana, is no more than a coincidence, that in any case some kind of showdown could not have been averted in view of the well-publicised mutual antagonism between two fairly well defined sections of the Janata Party.

Certain developments during the Devi Lal episode, have also helped to highlight demarcation of a kind which, while it may not be an enduring feature, hardly does credit to the effectiveness of the "collective leadership" of which we hear so much these days. For instance, the two versions given out about the decision of the Parliamentary Board. One was that the Haryana Janata Legislature Party would meet on Monday in Chandigarh to elect a new leader, and the other was that Monday's meeting would first decide whether Devi Lal did or did not command a majority and the question of electing or not electing a new leader would arise only thereafter.

R.K. Hegde has been accused of partisanship, but the target of criticism can be the Party president himself. Vajpayee, Patnaik and Rabi Ray seem to have placed themselves on one side, while

(Contd. on page 7)

AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN has been a monarchy for a long time. Its population, estimated around 20 million including about three million tribals, is predominantly Muslim. The religious leaders hold considerable sway over the population. In 1929, the Muslim religious leaders organised a revolt against King Amanullah to prevent his ideas about modernisation of Afghanistan, like introduction of monogamy, abolition of burqah, European clothing and English education, taking roots. Amanullah was expelled and power was taken over by an Afghan chief.

This Afghan chief was very soon defeated by General Nadir Shah, who received full British backing and became the king. In 1933, Nadir Shah was assassinated. His son, Mohammed Zahir, then became the king.

On July 17, 1973, a number of progressive young officers of the armed forces who wanted to take the country forward and break the shackles of the monarchy, revolted against Mohammed Zahir and overthrew his rule. They adopted Mohammed Daoud as their leader and made him the President of the new republic.

Afghanistan's socio-economic situation went on rapidly deteriorating. Afghanistan has 1.4 million hectares of arable land but only 4.5. million hectares are under cultivation. And that too, mostly under the control of feudal lords. The promised land reform by the Daoud government started only haltingly in 1977, three years after the monarchy was over-thrown. But in his land reform, only part of the Government—held land was touched; the land held by feudals remained as before. While distributing the Government land, the land taxes were inordinately raised, making it virtually impossible for the small landholders or new allottees to maintain their holdings.

Irrigation facility in Afghanistan is very poor and on top of that, the country was hit by two successive droughts. So much so that in November 1977 the annual food deficit had gone up to about 3.5 lakh tonnes. Daoud negotiated with India and as an emergency help, India agreed to give him 50,000 tonnes of foodgrains. The drought also hit the northern part of Afghanistan very badly and its pastures practically withered away. This resulted in large-scale slaughter of Afghanistan's famous karakul and other sheep since fodder could not be supplied. They contribute greatly to Afghanistan's national income and the killing of sheep was a big loss.

The economy deteriorated fast and the country depended on foreign aid props for its survival. The seven-year plan which began in 1976 had a foreign aid component of 2.5 billion dollars—66 per cent of the entire plan allocation. Of this amount Iran promised to give 1.2 billion dollars. No wonder, Iran had a big say in Afghan affairs.

THUS SPAKE
THE MAHATMA

Who can dare limit God's power of un-doing wrong? One thing is certain. If the mad race for armaments continues, it is bound to result in a slaughter such as has never occurred in history.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

SUNDAY May 14, 1978

Free India

WHAT AFTER AZAMGARH?

EVEN the loss of one seat in Uttar Pradesh, the stronghold of the Janata, at this juncture is bound to invest the defeat with a new significance and the in-fighting within the ruling Party's ranks will gather momentum.

Coming in the wake of its improved performance in Karnal, the Congress(I)'s success will be seized upon by Mrs. Gandhi as a reversal of the pro-Janata trend in the north. In the context of the national scene, the Azamgarh victory will be linked with the advantages being secured in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and will provide the much-needed morale boost to the Congress (I).

Commenting on the change in the atmosphere, Mrs. Gandhi who had spent five hectic days in the Constituency told reporters the loss of face for the Congress in U. P. last year was due to the vicious propaganda carried on against family planning campaign and the people now see through these things and are disenchanted.

Both the Karnal and the Azamgarh results are definite pointers to the changing moods. For the Janata the losses will certainly aggravate the tensions within and the rival factions can be counted upon to use it as a handy stick against each other.

In U. P. the Party's Azamgarh defeat coincides with the climax of the factional wragles in the State and would add to the intra-party bitterness.

Mr. Biju Patnaik was quite blunt when reacting to the result for he appealed to the trinity—Mr. Desai, Mr. Charan Singh and Mr. Jagjivan Ram to close their ranks. He said: "They should compose or quit, Otherwise the Party would break-up".

Sri Ekambaram, Sri Sowmiyanarayanan and other members of Irappani Manram, Tambaram, at Sriperumpudur Temple.

Of Men And Matters

Appeasing Power Mongers

ONCE again, after 25 years of their absence in the halls of the Madras Secretariat, Parliamentary Secretaries will make their presence felt.

Chief Minister, Mr. M.G. Ramachandran, after adding four more ministers to his Cabinet making a total of 18 members, has thought it fit to embellish his team with eight Parliamentary Secretaries.

Their function in the Tamil Nadu Assembly would be to answer questions, pilot Bills and reply to the discussion on behalf of the Ministers in the House in which they are members. They will not, however, attend Cabinet meetings.

It was during the Rajaji Ministry in 1952-53 that the system of having a Parliamentary Secretary to a Minister was first introduced in his Cabinet to ease the burden of the then Minister in-charge of the Finance portfolio.

In Maharashtra it continues to be in vogue right from the time of the Kher Ministry and there are Parliamentary secretaries for every Cabinet Minister.

The lesson to be learnt out of the creation of these political offices is that politicians are not just satisfied with winning elections. Their ambitions see no culmination till they seek and secure for themselves the position of ministership at least for a brief period.

When the DMK came to power in 1967, a good deal of pressure was brought to bear upon the late Annadurai to expand his Cabinet. Being a person made of sterner stuff, he stood his ground to the last and carried on with a moderate team until death took him away.

As soon as Mr. Karunanidhi succeeded Anna, he accommodated all those whom the late leader had kept at arm's length. And we saw the dramaof ministers using their office for selfish ends.

Before the expansion of the present AIADMK Cabinet, led by Mr. Ramachandran, the coordination with which the team has functioned in the eleven months since it assumed office, has won the admiration of all and sundry, overcoming many of the difficulties which the Opposition was creating with the hope of toppling it.

Let us hope that the same sense of team-spirit continues in the present set-up too although one is tend to conclude that the Chief Minister could not help appeasing some of his close Party colleagues by offering them positions, more out of prestige than any exigency would have demanded.

—DEEVEE

A Pilgrimage

A group of seventy members belonging to Iraippani Manram, Tambaram, led by their president Sri. Ekambaram and Sri S. Sowmiyanarayanan, former News editor, All India Radio, Madras, went on a short pilgrimage covering Mangadu Kamakshiamman Temple, Sriperumpudur Udayavar Temple (Uriyadi Utchavam day) Kanchipuram Kamakshiamman Temple and Varadarajaperumal Temple, Pazhayasrivaram Lakshminarasimhar Temple, Tirupporur Muruga Temple and Nellikkuppam Vendavaraghiamman Temple. They had dharsan of the presiding deities in all the temples and did poojas. They were accorded warm welcome at all the places.

At Nellikkuppam village in Chingleput district, where the temple of Sri Vendavaraghiamman is located, they were received with Poorna Kumbha honours by the Seva Samajam.

At the temple Sri Ekambaram and his disciples rendered Thiruppugazh songs and songs praising the temple deity Vendavaraaghiammanr.

Sri Ayyasami, on behalf of the Samajam, adorned Sri Sowmiyanarayanan with a golden shawl. Sri Sowmiyanarayanan presented Sri Ekambaram with a musical instrument called 'Haripol'. Sri T. Radhakrishnan, president, Seva Samajam, welcomed the gathering. Poet Mayan, who, was a member of the group, treated the audience with a song he composed on Vendavaraghiamman.

RESERVATION ISSUE

R. RANGARAJAN

Bihar is in the throes of a caste struggle over the issue of reservation of posts for backward classes. The Southern States and Maharashtra have solved this problem without much ado. The issue is whether jobs should be reserved on social and educational considerations or on economic grounds. The author is of the view that economic considerations by itself is not enough.

THE decision of the Bihar and Uttar Pradesh governments to reserve a certain percentage of posts in the state services for backward classes has triggered off an explosive situation, particularly in Bihar. The Karpoori Thakur government in Bihar, which had resolved to allocate 26 per cent of the posts for the backward classes, has been obliged to postpone the enforcement of the decision owing to sharp divisions in the ruling Janata Party itself. Trouble has also lately spread to U. P., though in this case, the proposed reservation is only, sixteen per cent. The spectacle of two Union Ministers being gherased at Allahabad by anti-reservationists underlines the surcharged passions amongst sections of the people.

The Central leadership of the Janata Party has taken upon itself the responsibility of finding an agreeable solution to the controversy in Bihar. The Union Law Minister, Mr. Shanti Bhushan, is preparing a working paper on the subject, based on the experience in the southern States which had put through this reform without much ado.

How is it that despite the specific promise made in the Janata Party's own election manifesto for such reservation and the earlier commitment of some of its constituents to this principle, namely, the Bharatiya Lok Dal and the Samyukta Socialist party, there are now divided counsels even within the Janata Party?

CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION

One obvious reason that the political and economic influence of the upper castes, specially those of Bhumihar, Rajputs, Kayasthas and Brahmins in Bihar, is much stronger than was the case of their counterparts in the South. Secondly, there had been no adequate realisation on the part of the other constituents of the Janata Party of the social significance of this reform. Thirdly, only when a promise is actually implemented, the concerned interests realise how their own privileges are affected. This explains why the upper castes in these states, cutting across party lines, are up in arms against the proposed reservation and want it to be done on the basis of an economic criterion, though the Constitution has only stipulated social and educational considerations as the desideratum for backwardness.

As regards the several other problems, the Janata government has now to face the consequences of the indecision of the previous Congress regime on the question of reservation of posts in the North.

As far back as 1956, the Backward Classes Commission presided over by Kakasaheb Kalelkar, had favoured such reservation of posts by a majority. The Chairman, Mr. Kalelkar himself was for adopting the economic criterion but he was over-ruled by the majority of members of the Commission which had identified over 2,000 backward communities for giving special treatment in regard to admissions to educational institutions and in government service. But the Centre sat mute on the report for four years. In 1961 it passed the buck to the States instead of squarely facing the issue whether the test of backwardness should be the lag in educational and social attainments or economic considerations. It remitted the report to the States for suitable action, recommending, however, the adoption of an economic criterion.

In the years that followed, the southern states and Maharashtra went ahead with the move, identifying at the state level the backward classes that needed the preferential treatment.

Thus in all these States, there is reservation varying from fifteen per cent in Maharashtra to over forty per cent in Karnataka. For certain categories of posts economic criteria have been laid down specially in Karnataka and Kerala but primarily, the whole classification has been done on the basis of educational and social backwardness as visualised in article 16 of the Constitution.

ECONOMIC CRITERION NOT ENOUGH!

The question naturally arised how the southern States went through turmoil as now witnesses in the north over this issue. The reason is that unlike in the north over this issue. The reason is that unlike in the north, there had been powerful movements for the removal of social stigmas attached to the backward classes by the late E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker in Tamilnadu and others in the rest of the south. The impact of Mr. Naicker's movement itself was felt in the entire south since Madras was then a composite multi-lingual state.

It is thus obvious that unless public opinion is educated through a sustained campaign in the north, the Janata Party would find it hard to fulfil this important electoral pledge in this part of India.

The late Dr. Zakir Hussain, who was a member of the first Education Commission presided over by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan had once warned that if the backward sections of the society were kept out, by accident or design, from the portals of educational institutions, they would one day destroy them.

As has been done in regard to admissions to technical institutions, it is imperative that in government service too, the backward classes which had been left to fend for themselves in their traditional occupations, are given a sense of participation in the administrative process.

—*Courtesy AIR.*

BEWARE OF CON MEN !

THE DISAPPEARING TRICK

IT was one of those auspicious Fridays. The office exodus of cars from the elite Spurtank Road residential area had dwindled down to a trickle. There were few pedestrians, and one of them was a woman from the nearby milkmen's colony.

A young man pedalling furiously from the opposite direction pulled up beside her. Look, he asked her, would she be interested in getting herself a new sari, some money and a sumptuous meal? Who wouldn't? He explained further. One of the wealthy Chettiar houses along the road was conducting a puja, and were distributing the largesse described. He was a servant in the house, and he could arrange that three women of his choosing received these gifts. For a smal consideration, of course. Now for the other two women. D.d she know anybody? She did? Wonderful. Of course, he'd go and fetch them on his cycle—much faster that way. On second thoughts, it would be better if she waited outside the house. Early bird gets the worm, you know.

He guided her to one of the imposing gates nearby. Hello, he hadn't noticed—that she was wearing gold ear studs and a chain. Now that certainly wouldn't do, to walk up to a house to receive gifts looking all that prosperous. She removed them, while he wrote down the addresses of her two friends. Such a helpful, friendly young man. He even went out of the way to help her wrap up the gold in a neat little packet. All the while he talked glowingly of the quality of the sarees, and the woman's unbelievable good luck in having met him at that opportune moment.

Still talking, he mounted his cycle and dutifully pedalled off to find the other two women, never to return. It was only as he was disappearing into the distance that the woman realised that he still had the little ornament packet with him.

x x x

Home Remedy

THE hum of visiting hour conversation filled Ward 3 of the Government General Hospital. Most of the beds had the usual cluster of visitors, laden with hastily purchased fruit and forbidden home made delicacies. The corner bed, however, presented a stark difference. An old man struck by paralysis lay staring sightlessly at the ceiling. By his side, keeping lonely vigil, was his wife—also bent with age. They had no visitors, for who would care for an old couple almost half in the grave? At least they thought so, and had resigned themselves to their lot, until they looked up and found the neatly dressed young man, smiling cheerfully down at them.

He inquired with touching concern about the old man's illness. The old lady, eagerly poured forth their woes to this sympathetic samaritan. Three months of tests, diagnosis, doctors, specialists, and more tests. But the old man still lay there, a living corpse. They had little money, and even less "influence". They had nothing to look forward to except their death in this antiseptically heartless surroundings.

The young man understood their plight. This modern doctors and their allopathic hogwash! Now he had an uncle who was afflicted by this very same ailment. A holy sadhu recommended a simple procedure. Take the gold ornaments of his nearest and most beloved relation. Put them in a glass of water, stir—and drink the water so treated. Why, his uncle had never got the complaint again. Would the old lady like to try this simple remedy? Just a two sovereign chain? Not to worry at all, the point lay in the love of the relation for the patient. Did she have a glass of water? No? She could easily get it from that drinking water faucet—mind, the glass should be clean. He contemplated the necklace in his hand, sighed resignedly and moved concernedly closer to the old man, as the old lady hurried to fetch the water. He then turned, and unhurriedly made his way out of the ward, through the opposite door.

The old man still lay silent, staring blankly at the ceiling, his feeble, paralysed brain hardly registering the quantum of goodness and charity in this world.

—*R. Sreeramulu.*

FUN AND LAUGHTER

LOOK OUT !

A countryman heard that the job of watchman at a single-line railway crossing was vacant.

"You'll have to undergo a strict examination," the man in charge said when he applied for the job.

"Ask me anything !" bragged the applicant.

"All right," spoke up the examiner. "Supposing you are at the crossing and two trains are coming along from opposite directions, what would you do ?"

"I'd blow my whistle."

"Supposing your whistle was out of order ?"

"I'd always wear a red shirt, and I'd take it off and flag the trains."

"Let's say this happened at night."

"Then I'd swing my lantern."

"But suppose you had no oil in your lantern."

"In that case I'd call my sister."

"Your sister ? What for ?"

"I'd just say to her : Come on down, sis, and see the mightiest wreck you ever saw in all your life !"

x x x

STRANGE

Said the prison warder at 1 a.m:

"Aren't you asleep yet?"

"Not yet," replied the burglar. "It seems so strange to be in bed in the middle of the night".

x x x

"What makes cigarettes scarce these days?"

Smoking them.

x x x

TO THE POINT

The landlord of offices tenanted by a firm of Scots lawyers whose lease was about to expire wrote to ask whether they were going to continue in occupation. Their reply was :

"Dear Sir, We are, Yours truly——".

Not appreciating this effort in economy of words—and paper—he wrote again to demand whether or not it was their intention to remain. The answer was :

"Dear Sir, We remain, Yours truly——"

The landlord is not trying.

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FOREMOST FOOD FLAVOURING
AND PRESERVATIVE.
LALJEE GODHOO & CO., MADRAS-1
BOMBAY

ASSURANCE

There were special guests that night and the hostess was a little dubious about the new maid who was to serve in the dining-room.

"Mary, when you are in the dining-room to-night I want you to be careful that you don't spill anything".

Mary looked at her mistress knowingly and smiled.

"You can count on me, ma-am I don't talk malk".

x x x

WANTED TO KNOW

The morning after the club dinner the secretary received a phone call.

"Robinson speaking"; said the voice. "Is it true that Jones got absolutely intoxicated at the dinner last night?"

"I'm afraid so," replied the secretary.

"Scandalous! Er—was I there, toy, old man?"

x x x

PROVIDED FOR

She was one of those women who always worry. So her husband was not alarmed when, as they sat in the cinema, she exclaimed suddenly:

"Oh, John, I forgot to turn off the electric iron!"

"Don't worry, m'dear" he replied cheerfully. "I forgot to turn off the bath tap, so it will be quite all right!"

x x x

DASHED EASY !

A woman decided to have the shape of her nose altered. So she called on a beauty-surgeon.

"How much will you charge to alter the shape of my nose ?" she asked.

"A hundred guineas, madam".

"A hundred guineas," she exploded. "Isn't there something less expensive ?"

"Well," replied the surgeon, suavely, "you could try walking into a lamp post."

x x x

HE KNEW !

Calling at the doctor's house, a visitor met the young son at the gate.

"Is your father in ?" he asked.

"No ; he's out giving an anaesthetic.',

"That's a big word for such a small boy. Do you know what it means ?"

"Yes," replied the youngster coldly. "It means two guineas to us."

Sweets And Savouries

By

P. B. SREENIVOS

Cine Play-Back Artiste.

1. **B**ody with symmetry and harmony !
Elegance playing sweet symphony !
Attractive limbs and a charming face,
Unparalleled in magnetic grace,
Teaming with splendour exciting
Youthful, gay and inviting !!

2. **K**indness-less slap, given by the leg,
Intoxication given by a peg,
Causing some sort of injury,
Keen on cooling hot fury !!

3. **D**readful truth, that is inevitable,
Ending each dream, most lovable
Also some-times despicable,
Taking lives to teach new things,
Having closed all old dealings !!

4. **H**andsome, energetic & young delighter
Encountering too many a fighter,
Romantic lover of the heroine,
Omnipotent debonair with a sure win !!

5. **S**weet expression of a graceful face,
Manouevring to win the love-race,
Ingenious and effective dart
Leaving a mark in the partner's heart,
Expert in playing its own part !!

6. **E**xclusive and most dangerous
Grave-yard meant for supercilious
Oppressive persons, self-conscious !!

7. **G**enius, who scores well in studies,
Risking, on the way, many jeopardies,
At last, receiving a big degree,
Desires to mount the Employment-Tree !
Untiringly, he wanders,
At the end, standing, he wonders !
Torn by despair, he has to prefer
Even the job of a hotel-server !!

Fibre Optics : A Technical Leap In Communications

By NED SCHARFF

WISPY strands of glass are replacing copper telephone cables in Chicago, Illinois, and Long Beach, California.

They are also being used as medical probes with which American doctors can explore the interior of the stomach, bladder or colon—and even remove a tumour—without major surgery.

Before long, glass fibres will replace conventional cables in other areas of sophisticated telecommunications—computers, airplanes, power plant control systems, assorted military hardware, possibly even transatlantic telephone lines.

Fibre optics, the scientific name for the burgeoning new field of glass circuitry, is being billed as the next great technical leap in communications, as important a discovery in its way as the microwave transmission or the transistor.

ENORMOUS ADVANTAGES

Quite simply, telephone conversations, television broadcasts, computer data or any other sort of message can be translated into light waves and sent through glass wires instead of the conventional technique of translating them into electrical impulses and sending them through copper wires.

And the potential advantages are enormous.

While the world supply of copper is running out, the world supply of sand, the principal ingredient in glass, is just about endless.

While a typical copper telephone cable used under big city streets is three inches (eight centimetres) thick, weighs nine pounds (four kilograms) per foot and carries about 32,000 telephone conversations at once, a comparable glass cable would be half an inch (a centimetre) thick (mostly because of plastic filler), weigh a tenth of a pound per foot (.135 kilograms per metre) and carry 48,000 telephone conversations with virtually no distortion or "bleeding" of one conversation into another.

EASY TO MAINTAIN

The glass fibre also is much easier to maintain.

Because electronic signals sent through copper cable tend to elongate over long distances the phone company must install amplifiers every 15 miles (24 kilometres) to boost the signal. The amplifiers, each costing $4,000-to-$5,000, have to be replaced every few years, an especially costly process if the amplifiers are attached to a cable at the bottom of the ocean.

Light waves sent through glass fibres also elongate, but much less than electronic signals. Only one-third as many amplifiers are needed and each costs only about $2,000.

"Glass is really a miraculous material," said Charles Kao of International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation in Roanoke, Virginia, the acknowledged founder of fibre optics technology. "It's very, very durable. It doesn't degrade, and we can reduce absorption to a minimum so it won't even heat up.

PREDICTION COMES TRUE

"Of course, everything boils down to economics, and although the glass is expensive to produce right now, eventually it will be very cost effective".

It was shortly after the invention of the laser beam in the late 1950s that Kao predicted that glass would become the medium of the future for transmitting communications.

The laser (the name is an acronym for Light Amplification through Stimulated Emission of Radiation) is, akin to a radio transmitter, except that it emits waves in the optical frequency.

Kao, then experimenting with metallic wave guides for ITT, was the first to recognize the attractions of a non-metallic material, glass, or plastic, in transmitting optical waves.

The physics of the glass fibre are fairly simple. The fibre acts as a soda straw for light waves. Only a trivial amount of light can escape from the tube, so long as it is not bent so sharply that its refractive limits are exceeded.

Any kind of information, be it voice, picture or magnetic impulse, can be translated into light waves either by laser or by light—emitting diode (the tiny red lights that light the face of a pocket calculator), and translated back into sound or electricity at the other end through a solar panel of the sort satellites use to get energy from the sun.

THE DIFFICULTY

The biggest difficulty lies in manufacturing glass that is free of troublesome inpurities. Even minute amounts of uncontrolled impurities in glass seriously impede the flow of light. Only one atom of iron for every thousand million atoms of silicone can be tolerated in glass fibres, about 1,000 times the degree of purity required in manufacturing transistors.

As many as a dozen firms in North America, Japan and Europe are scrambling to produce highly pure glass fibre at the lowest possible price. Chief among them in the United States are ITT, Corning Glass Works and the Bell Laboratories division of American Telephone and Telegraph (AT & T).

AT & T is potentially the largest user of glass fibres and has the largest research project under way, but it is the most conservative of the firms when it comes to projecting when, or if, fibre technology will be introduced on a widespread basis.

Because of the inordinate expense of installing its cables, the telephone company says it must insure a greater degree of reliability before committing itself to glass technology.

But Corning, ITT and others already are marketing glass cables at a cost which, they maintain, already is competitive with coaxial copper cable for certain sophisticated purposes.

Bill Babcock, sales manager for Corning's optical fibre divi-

(Contd. on page 6)

Projecting India At Bloomingdale's

By RACHEL BIRTHA

BLOOMINGDALE's — that fashionable Manhattan store with a dozen East Coast branches, since opening its doors in 1872 as the first New York department store, has been a trendsetter.

This spring, with the cooperation of Air India, Bloomingdale's took the unprecedented step of putting India into literally every department of every branch of the store. With some eight million dollars worth of Indian merchandise, Bloomingdale's thirteen East Coast retail stores may contain the largest selection of Indian consumer goods outside of India.

In addition to familiarizing the American consumer with Indian-made ready-to-wear apparel, accessories and home furnishings, the store has undertaken to introduce Indian arts as well.

The gala opening event was a black tie benefit for the women's committee of the Smithsonian Institution. It took place in the Bloomingdale's newest branch store in White Flint, a suburb of Washington, D.C.

Among artists who have come from India to enliven the event were Mrinalini and her daughter Mallika Sarabhai (Bharata Natyam) Meher Contractor (shadow puppets of Andhra) Malti Desai (Rangoli and Mehendi) and Yeshwant Shidhar Kelkar (astrology).

SPIRIT AND CULTURE

Jokingly terming Bloomingdale's undertaking a "mini-invasion of the United States by India", Ambassador Palkhivala noted that "in true sense, it is more than a commercial venture." He praised Bloomingdale's for "succeeding admirably" in evoking the spirit and the culture of India.

Guests and hosts alike were enthusiastic about the prospects of the Slum project titled: "India: The Ultimate Fantasy".

"I think India is a country that is going to become more and more important, and I think it needed someone like us to demonstrate that interesting, exciting merchandise of high standard quality can come from a country like India," Mr. James S. Schoff, Bloomingdale's president, said in an interview.

He pointed out, "this is the kind of thing we think a department store can do better than almost any other institution".

Former U.S Ambassador in India, Mr. John Sherman Cooper, looking beyond the commercial aspect said, "I think to bring here these evidences of India's life, production, culture, will bring a much closer understanding of India," adding, "I think it's going to have a great impact all over the United States".

Characteristic of the meeting of East and West was the collection of ready to wear clothes for men designed by Namita Panjabi of Bombay especially for the promotion.

OTHER ARTISTES

The best of Indian tradition was represented by the artists and performers who provided a complete evening's entertainment for the guests at the gala.

During the six weeks that "India: The Ultimate Fantasy" is being featured at the thirteen Bloomingdale's stores, (April 15–May 20) artists due to participate include Kummudini Lakhia and her kathak dance troupe, Amarjit Singh Modi (palmist), Nalini Metha (kathakali dance miniature collection), Thiru B. Damodaran (demonstrator of ancient and modern Indian instruments), Bansi Lal and Badami Devi Lal (Rajasthani puppets), Kripal Singh Shekhawat (Jaipuri blue pottery maker).

Other activities scheduled in Washington in coordination with the promotion but not taking place in the store include a sitar recital at the Smithsonian's Baird Auditorium by Ustad Vilayat Khan (his American debut) and the showing at the American Film Institute of four feature films in English made in India with a personal appearance by the Indian American team of James Ivory and Ismail Merchant who made them.

For The Week 14th May To 20th May 1978

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

THE whole week could be satisfactory. Professional prospects will improve. Finance is fairly satisfactory. Avoid speculative investment for some more time. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Health will be well maintained. Short journeys are indicated. Religious function is indicated in the family. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

THERE is some improvement in family environment. Keep an eye on children. Financial position will not be up to expectation. Pressure from creditors and new borrowings are some possibilities. In affairs of heart, there is some sudden change. You should renew your contacts with old business associates. In dealing with partner, patience is required. There is need for maintaining cordial relations with co-workers. Favourable days: 14th & 15th.

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

THIS week starts well. Mental activity will increase. Emotions need control. There are no major changes in the office. But you should continue your efforts to get proper recognition and regard. Financial position will be satisfactory. Speculative investments in real estate will yield good results. Partnership matters require attention. Family members will be cooperative. Favourable days: 17th & 18th.

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

MOST of the week is favourable. But you must be prepared for financial problems. You can expect the position to improve from the middle of the week. Professional prospects are bright. Change of place is indicated for some. You may also think of shifting your residence. Domestic atmosphere is cloudy. You should avoid friction with elders. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 17th & 18th.

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

THERE is scope for financial improvement. You will be able to increase your income by diversifying your activities. Domestic scene is normal. You can expect the cooperation of your family members in solving some of the problems. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Health will be well maintained. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days: 19th & 20th.

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

THE first part of the week stimulates enthusiasm and success. Attend to your personal matters. Mental activity will increase. Financial position will improve from the middle of the week. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Also avoid impulsive actions while deciding important matters. Domestic responsibility will increase. But you can expect the cooperation of your family members. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

THIS week starts well. Professional prospects will improve. Financial position will be satisfactory. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Family happiness is assured. Religious performance is indicated in the family. You should try to cultivate new friendships. But dealings with relatives call for vigilance. Health will be well maintained. Short journeys are indidicated. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Favourable days: 19th & 20th.

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

THIS week is favourable to finalise financial matters. You will be able to find a new source of income. Promotional possibilities are bright. With some tact and diplomacy you will be able to gain the attention of your superiors. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Family atmosphere will be pleasant. Children's progress will give you much pleasure. Favourable days: 19th & 20th.

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

THIS week's results will be mixed. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. You should try to consolidate your gains instead of making new attempts. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 16th & 17th.

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

THE whole week will be progressive. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your position. Financial position will be satisfactory. Investment made in real estate will give better results. Family atmosphere will be pleasant. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Health will be well maintained. Avoid long distance journeys unless necessary. Favourable days: 15th & 16th.

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sadhabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

THIS week opens with opportunities to improve your financial position. Professional prospects will improve. You will be able to gain the confidence of your superiors. Family responsibility will increase. But you can expect the cooperation of your family members. Matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

THE whole week will be progressive. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your position. Financial position will be satisfactory. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Partnership matters require attention. Avoid friction with family members. Matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications. Favourable days: 14th & 15th.

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sion, said the firm is now selling single-strand fibre for about $1 per metre. With increased demand, Babcock predicts, the price will fall to 10 cents per metre by the early 1980s.

PROCESSESS

All of the present manufacturers are using a process known as vapour deposition in which silicon dioxide gas is made to condense around a thin core, which is removed after the glass has been deposited.

A competing technique, and one that could well undercut cost, has been developed by two physicists at Washington's Catholic University, Peter Macedo and Theodore A. Litovitz.

The technique involves melting impure glass until its elements separate, at which point the impurities can be leached away with acid. If the new method can produce fibres with the same purity as the current manufacturers, Macedo and Litovitz should become wealthy men.

Besides the possible cost advantages, the most attractive quality of glass fibre is its absence of electronic noise. Coaxial cables constantly spill electricity, as your car radio tells you every time you drive beneath an overhead power line. By the same token, overworked telephone lines have a tendency to blend conversations together because electrical waves travelling through one line seep through the insulation and get mixed up in a parallel line.

MAJOR PROBLEM SOLVED

That kind of electronic noise poses major problems in sophisticated control systems, say a large power plant or military weapons system, where the heavy presence of electricity can interfere with the ability of separate electronic controls to receive signals.

Such problems would be eliminated with glass cables, which never leak if they have been wrapped with a dark insulator. Glass cables would also be much harder to tap than conventional lines, a distinct advantage for military systems. Above all, glass fibres can carry far greater loads than copper coaxial cables because light waves take less room than electricity.

"Once fibre optics are in use, there will be so much new information capacity that there will be a major problem deciding what kind of information to transmit," said physicist Macedo.

"You'll have a video-telephone in your home, and you'll be able

(Contd. on page 7)

GIVE THEM A FREE HAND

By P. N. SUNDARESAN

THE Board of Control for Cricket in India has recently imposed a ban on *active* players writing books—biographies or autobiographies—unless it permits them to do so. Obviously the Board's restrictive step is a reaction to some recent books in which frank and forthright criticism of players and officials has been set out.

The Board's action naturally has created some agitation in cricket circles in the country. To me the constraint on the players appears needless, taking into account the trends since the Second World War. In the three decades since then there has been a spate of books on the game, a majority of them written by cricketers while still at the crease. As from Garfield Sobers, Rohan Kanhai and Freddie Trueman, to cite a few examples. Some of these books have put forth very frank views on the game and its participants, players and officials. But none of the controlling bodies had reacted and thought it fit to impose any constraints on the writing and publication of books by cricketers later on.

The only ban on players giving expression to their views, either through interviews or in books, has been on those who go on a tour, shutting them up for a short period of a month or two after the exercise is completed. This restriction is only reasonable, though in the very recent past even this has been removed, with the participants coming out with their views even during the course of a match, even a Test match.

While this, is the trend, the decision not to allow our players to write books during their playing days does not stand on firm ground. Only during their playing days, can the cricketers cash in on their popularity—not to speak of the angle of the publishers—and try to make some money out of the books. True, there are some bad eggs among them, who are keen to emphasise on the seamy side of the game than its positive aspects. The best course would be to allow the writers to fall or rise by their own deeds.

The Board may not on a question of prestige withdraw the ban immediately but I hope they will make the approval of the intended publications a more formality.

x x x

Hindu Trophy

The Hindu Trophy cricket tournament, the first of the limited overs competition in Tamil Nadu, if not in the country, came to a successful conclusion late least month, with the State Bank of India Recreation Club beating Lucas TVS in a thrilling final. I stress on the adjective *"successful"* not merely because the final was a nerve-tingling affair but also because the tournament lived up to its mood.

This particular tournament is for the business houses in the city, and as such is indulged in by the participants, a majority of whom are more keen on enjoying the fun of playing cricket than competent in doing so. As such it is futile to expect even a reasonable standard from them. Cross-bat shots, dropped catches and things that you don't expect to happen in competitive cricket are the order of the day in this competition, which alone makes it really enjoyable and over the years, has contributed to its immense popularity. Only a realisation of this aspect helped the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association to convert the final into a 30 over affair, from a 50-over match it was for more than a decade.

From page 1

Chandra Shekhar, Jagjivan Ram and Hegde on the other. Whether the contours of a realignment of forces within the Janata Party can be seen in this is an open question, but there can be room for serious misgivings. Whether Charan Singh has suffered a setback is another moot point.

Clearly, Charan Singh is interested first in ensuring that his strength is not eroded and, secondly, in preventing his satellites from being ousted from Chief Ministership in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana. The Jana Sangh component of the Janata Party, like the BLD faction, has similar compulsions, though the former is not in so desperate a position as the latter. For the moment the two faction, which together are dominant in the Janata Party, find it expedient to stand together.

Morarji Desai has been accused of being no more than an umpire who prefers the path of least resistance. That the Prime Minister is in fact the major factor holding the Janata Party together seems beyond doubt. But the question is how long tight-rope walking can save the Party and help the nation advance in all vital spheres. This should cause much heart-searching among Janata leaders and among the Party ranks everywhere.

BIGGEST QUESTION

In the context of recent developments and in the background of the confusion that has marked the policy-making and decision taking processes of the ruling party, the loud declamations, at the Ramlila grounds on May 1 about unified outlook and united functioning will be taken with a large dose of salt. The thinner crowd compared to last year, as well as the major problem in many States, including those of law and order, of Harijan-baiting, of well-planned attacks on the working class by the administration and by the employers, of failure to show credible headway in the matter of creating employment as promised, and of open bickering based on traditional partisan loyalties, must make even the imperturbable Morarji Desai think hard.

Even more important is it that the forward looking personalities who are well placed in the ruling party and the government should move fast to provide clear direction to the administration in different spheres at all levels. Mere repetition of radical phrases about the public sector, about curbing monopolies, about jobs for the millions, about eradication of poverty, or about an efficient public distribution system, does not take the country anywhere. The biggest question is whether those in the Janata Party who have come into it with a back ground of radicalism or a radical image are in a position to assert themselves against the forces of status quo that are dominant, or whether they will go on making compromise after compromise merely to keep the loosely knit party in one piece as long as possible.

If the progressives do not assert themselves now, they may discover before long that it is too late to impart purpose and direction to the Party which only a year ago had roused so much hope among the people. The time has come to end the erosion of credibility which is the Janata's biggest problem today.

CONGRESS ROLE

It is not only the Janata Party that should think hard and act decisively. The two Congress parties taken together as they should be despite their so-called differences, are not very different in character and class composition from the Janata Party, though the "Indira effect" is a massive factor that can confuse the national situation in a big way. Thanks to her cleverness and the phlegmatism of her rivals in the other Congress, considerable confusion has already been added to the national political scene.

Janata stalwarts may delight comparing the two Congresses to two hungry cats, but they would be unwise to dismiss the forces they represent as inconsequential, especially because of the Janata Party's own dismal record in dealing with the fundamental and day-to-day problems of the rural and urban masses. It is no argument to say that the Congress(I) and the other Congress are no friends of the poor, that while in office they were building up only the richer sections at the cost of the poor majority in the country. It is not a tenable argument only because the Janata Party is yet to show that its collective sympathies are with the poor and the weak and not with the kulaks, the rich industrialists and the traders, not to speak of multinationals and the like.

BOLD NEW EFFORT NEEDED

The most dedicated among the Left forces in the country are largely outside government. They can, if only they unite purposefully and give up long-nurtured animosities and inhibitions, provide direction to the masses by organising them and mobilising their strength in favour of clearly spelt out radical social and economic changes. There is no need to write off the progressive elements in the Janata Party or the Congress parties, or even regional parties like the AIADMK and the DMK or the PWP. There are the extremist groups like the Naxalites which are powerful material for social transformation. Even among the stragglers of Jayaprakash Narayan's following which seemed quite large only a couple of years or so ago, there were many who can be brought into mass struggles. There is thus need for a bold new effort at mass mobilisation on a nationwide scale. No individual or group need feel left out of the massive task that is common.

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to dial the latest newspaper edition, a congressional hearing, read a book from the Library of Congress or just play chess with the computer".

Herbert Elion of J.D. Little in Cambridge, Massachusetts, manager of a consortium on fibre optics development, also thinks that eventually the advantages of glass fibres could revolutionize home electronics because the expense and volume of copper wire are prohibitive.

Some of the most spectacular applications of the new glass technology have been in medicine. The flexible strands of glass can be used in reverse—like periscopes—to inspect the interior of someone's stomach or intestines, procedures that might otherwise require extensive surgery.

If a physician wants to take a tiny skin sample from an internal organ, he can use the fibre like a tiny scalpel, or, if he sees a growth he wants to remove, he can cauterize it with a tiny laser beam.

DRAMA :

SAANTHI YENGAY ? Is Enjoyable

Ajantalaya presented Marina's latest drama SAANTHI YENGAY? at the Rasika Ranjani Sabha Hall, Madras, on May 5 under the auspices of Kartik Fine Arts. It is an enjoyable play.

Marina, who wrote the story and dialogues, has himself directed the drama, ably.

Kailasam is a retired school master. His interest in producing a stage play is immense. He dreams of making his daughter Saanthi a top star. She too willingly accepts to act as heroine in his dramas. Bhavani, Kailasam's daughter-in-law, and Krishnamurthy, his son, think otherwise. They want Saanthi to be happily married. Kailasam agrees to celebrate Saanthi's marriage with Kumar, whose drama Kailasam is planning to put on board, with one condition, viz., the wedding to take place only after the inauguration of the drama.

New complications develop at this stage because of lack of understanding, distrust, gossip and jealousy of the different characters in the play leading to high tension and later ends wells.

The play touches on one of the important problem of modern society which needs to change its outlook. It aims to prove that a young woman, even unmarried, can be friendly with any young man without making love to him. It also hits out at the gossip-mongers, who invariably tend to create confusion in good families. It is all done in a humourous way.

V. Vasantha as Bhavani steals the show. M. G. Rajan proves an equal to her. Another person to whom the role fits well is N. Suri who acts as the drill master Kanakasabhai. The role of gossip monger Ranjana is enacted by Jhansi Rani with ease. K. R. Devaki acts as Saanthi. She is impressive. The important character, Kailasam, is portrayed by S. Rama Nathan. He has to improve a lot. Kailasam is described as a Durvasa. Rama Nathan has failed to bring out this very important aspect of the character he was enacting.

Others in the cast are T.S. Subburaman (Kumar), K. Mohan (Babu), R. Santhanam (Rishi), R. Chandrasekar (Ravi), R. Rajaram (Raja). R. Raghunath (Hari), K. Sundarajan (Doctor) and Chitra Devi (Nurse).

The stage settings have been done well.

FILM REVIEW :

PUNNIA BHOOMI

Producer N V Ramaswami has spared no pains in making his latest film in colour PUNNIA BHOOMI, purposeful and effective.

'Punnia Bhoomi' is based on the Hindi hit 'Mother India' featuring Nargis, Sunil Dutt and Balraj Sahni.

It is about a woman's stuggle against odds. In the process of upholding her womanhood and keeping her promises she sacrificed a lot. Vanisri, married to Sivaji suddenly found herself facing the cruel world with three children to be reared when her husband deseted her unable to bear the insults of the village money lender and with her mother-in-law passing away. She resolved to face the problems with courage. The lustful money lender tried to lure her. But she rebuked him. She lost one of her children on a stormy day and brought up the remaining two boys. Of the two, the younger one (also played by Sivaji) grew up with vengeance in his heart toward the money lender. He always picked up quarrels with the money lender and his daughter. When he was taken to task by his mother he turned a dacoit. At the end he was shot dead by his own mother when he tried to kidnap the money lender's daughtre.

It is out and out a Vanisri film. She occupies the major portion of the movie. She has given a creditable performance.

Sivaji Ganesan dons the dual roles of the father [illegible] the violent second son.

Ramakrishna is impressive as the elder son. Nambiar puts up a poor show. V. K. Ramaswami, Veeraraghavan, Bhavani, Sangeetha, Y. Vijaya, Manorama Baby Rohini and Baby Varalakshmi are also in the cast.

Photography is by Ishan Arya. T. M. Soundararajan, Susila, Janki, and L. R. Eswari have rendered the songs written by Kavignar Kannadasan and Pulamai Pithan. M.S. Viswanathan has scored the music Dance numbers have been choreographed by A.K. Chopra. Devan has done the editing work which needs to be improved.

K. Vijayan's direction is naive. He seems to have taken everything for granted. He has taken it neatly in the first half and left the second half to go astray stuffing it with irrelevant incidents and sequences.

Vetri Thirumagal

VIVEK Agencies' VETTRI THIRUMAGAL was the last film in which late T R. Mahalingam acted as hero. Produced at a cost of 37 lakhs in five languages—Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Sinhalese—the Tamil version is expected to be released shortly. Other four versions have already been released.

T. R. Mahalingam has acted as the Devakumaran who comes to the earth to prove that Devas are superior to the humans.

Madhuri Devi has acted as the heroine Devasundari. Her versatality is impressive.

Though T. R. Mahalingam is the hero, it is Mustafa as the villainous prince, who dominates the film. He has given a fine performance.

Jose Prakash has acted as Devendra and Jayasri (Jayachitra's mother) has put on the robes of the princess.

The film has dialogue written by A. L. Narayanan.

C. N. Pandurangan has scored th[illegible]ic and H. V. Babu has ab[illegible]ected the film. Adil Irani is the director of photography.

Thiripura Sundari

GARUDA FILMS' THIRIPURA SUNDARI is about the woes of a wronged girl. Prabha, born in a low caste and brought up by her uncle Srikanth, develops deep love and affection towards him and decides to marry him in spite of his objections. But, she is kidnapped and molested by three boys of her college. They also set fire to the hut where she lived with her uncle. She takes a vow to wreck vengeance on the trio. How she achieves her goal is shown in the rest of the film.

Prabha as the wronged girl has put up a good show. Srikanth steals our heart with his fine portrayal. Nagesh, as the doctor who helps Prabha, is effective. In a short appearance V. Gopalakrishnan impress. Sarath Babu, Jayachandran and Rajasekharan are the villains. Krishna Rao and Manorama act as the college lecturers. Suruli-rajan, Sachu and Baladasan form the comedy team. Meera and S.N. Lakshmi are also in the cast.

Illayaraja has set to tune the songs provided by Kannadasan and Pulamai Pithan. D. Rajagopal is the director of photography.

Vijaya Ganesan has written the story and dialogue and also directed this film produced by N.R. Amudha.

FILM NEWS :

Srilanka Actor in Tamil Film

Srilanka's Kamini Ponseka has been signed to act as the hero in the Tamil film in colour NEELAKKADALIN ORATHILE launched recently by Fernando Productions. Sripriya will be the heroine.

A sequence, Sripriya, Nambiar and Thengai Srinivasan participating, was shot by Rajaram recently at A.V.M. Studios directed by K. Sankar.

Kamini Ponseka has acted in more than 100 films including some English movies. One among them is the Sinhalese film 'Kembaralaya' which won the President's award as best picture.

A leading Srilanka actress is also expected to act in this film to be shot in India and Srilanka.

Kalaimani is writing the story and dialogue. M.S. Viswanathan is in charge of music and Pulamaipithan is composing the songs. It is produced by Fernando.

Bairavi

Rajinikanth, Srikanth, Sripryia, V.K. Ramaswami, Surulirajan. Y. Vijaya, Manorama and new comer Bairavi are in the cast of Valli Velan Movies' Tamil film BAIRAVI.

Produced by Kalaignanam it will have screen-play and dialogue by Madurai Thirumaran.

Bhaskar directs it and Ilayaraja scores the music.

Jaiganesh – Sridevi Teamed For 'Lakshmi'

Jaiganesh and Sridevi lead the cast of Nageswari Films Tamil colour film LAKSHMI.

Srikanth, Jamila, Surilirajan, Kanthimathi, Master Sridhar, G.K. Ramkumar and Joker Tulasi are also acting in it.

T.K. Mohan, who worked as an assistant with director K.S. Gopalakrishnan, is directing it and B. Rangan is handling the camera.

Alangudi Somu and Gangai Amaran are writing the songs for the film produced by S. V. Raju.

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Printed and Published for the Free India Private Ltd., by G. Rangarajan at the Free India Press, 77, General Patters Road, Mount Road, Madras-600002. Editor: G. Rangarajan. Telephone: 85304.